

From: David Hicks
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/4/02 11:10am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

The government's case against Microsoft, well-intentioned as it may have been, has been hurting the American economy for far too long. The issues the case intended to address are already moot. (Laws intended to prevent excesses a century or more ago are not working in the current economic environment.)

While Microsoft may have gone too far in trying to protect its interests, the market itself is self-correcting. It is also too self-interested to allow Mr. Gates and company to impose his will on millions of users who may or may not choose to use Microsoft's products.

The only way Microsoft can stay ahead in this highly competitive environment is by developing excellent products. At this point the government is impeding Microsoft in this effort by draining so much of Microsoft's resources to fighting the legal battle. In this case, if the government would just allow the market to function, everybody would benefit.

Sincerely,
David Hicks